

USPTO Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences
Internship/Externship Program for Law Students

Purpose:

To provide law students interested in pursuing a career in patent law with an opportunity to acquire a practical working knowledge of the decision making processes of the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences.

Remuneration:

The Internships/Externships under this program do not provide remuneration to the participant. Participation in the program will require that selectees to sign a Waiver of Compensation and a Statement of Volunteer Service. In addition, selectees must provide a letter from the university concerning their participation.

Duration of the Internships/Externships:

If participation in the program is intended to be for credit as part of the regular course work towards a Juris Doctor degree, the program will usually require the commitment of at least 120 hours for a three (3) credit course. If participation in the program is intended to be a co-op arrangement, the program will usually require that the commitment does not exceed the equivalent of one term of the participant's law school (quarter or semester).

Requirements for Candidates:

The candidate's application must include the following items:

- A. A resume or statement addressing the following:
 - 1. Name, Address and Telephone
 - 2. Citizenship
 - 3. Undergraduate and Advanced Technical Degree(s) (Engineering or Science)
 - 4. Undergraduate and Advanced Non-Technical Degree(s), if any
 - 5. Universities attended
 - 6. Law School(s) attended (including in current attendance)
 - 7. Statement of good standing by the ABA accredited law school currently in attendance
 - 8. Academic Achievements
 - 9. Extracurricular Activities
- B. Evidence that the law student meets one of the following criteria:
 - 1. Law student has successfully completed a course in Patent Law or its equivalent, such as an Intellectual Property Survey Course.
 - 2. Law student has at least 6 months patent examination experience in the U. S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).
- C. Copies of undergraduate, graduate and law school transcripts from each university and law school attended (*unofficial copies are acceptable*).

Where to submit the application:

A complete application including items A, B and C must be submitted by the deadline for the application to be considered. Applications are to be submitted to Merrell C. Cashion, Jr. via facsimile transmission to 703-308-7953 or via mail to:

Merrell C. Cashion, Jr.
Internship/Externship Program
Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 15647
Arlington, VA 22215-0647

Deadline for submission of application:

The following deadlines apply:

Summer Internship/Externship	Applications must be <u>received</u> by January 31
Spring Internship/Externship	Applications must be <u>received</u> by September 15
Fall Internship/Externship	Applications must be <u>received</u> by April 28

Type of Program:

This program is open to all law schools.

Number of Positions:

The Board will sponsor a limited number of internships each year, subject to budgetary and space constraints.

Review and Selection of Participants:

The Chief Administrative Patent Judge or his designate will review the submissions by the applicants and make selections according to the Board's needs.

Acceptance of Internship/Externship by Law Schools for Credit:

The program at the Board is designed to meet the requirement for an internship/externship at most law schools. The burden is on the applicant to ensure that his law school will give the credit sought.

Internship/Externship Program:

The program will generally provide the participant with the following opportunities:

1. Work under the supervision of an Administrative Patent Judge;
2. Participate in the evaluation of ex parte appeal(s) and the drafting of the subsequent opinion(s), as directed by the assigned panel(s);
3. Tour of the USPTO facilities;
4. Visit to the CAFC and Supreme Court, when possible;
5. Training at the USPTO's Patent Academy, when available;

6. Observe hearing(s) on patent appeal(s);
7. Training at the Board, under the guidance of a Program and Resources Administrator.

The nature of the work to be performed will be substantive and will vary according to the needs of the assigned Administrative Patent Judge.

Important

The individuals selected bear responsibility for making all necessary living arrangements during the period of the internship. The USPTO's Office of Human Resources may be available to provide limited assistance and may be contacted at 703-305-8231.